

## **TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (TCEQ) UPDATE APRIL 25, 2012, SETPMTC MEETING**

Governor Perry appointed Toby Baker to serve as a TCEQ commissioner effective April 16, 2012.

A public hearing is scheduled in Austin at the TCEQ headquarters on April 26, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. on the proposed Revision of Texas Low Emission Diesel Rules (Project No. 2009-001-114-EN). The comment period closes on April 27, 2012. Further information is available on the [What's New in TCEQ Rules Web page](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/whatsnew.html) (<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/whatsnew.html>). Contact: Morris Brown, (512) 239-1438.

On March 14, 2012, the TCEQ submitted comments to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the proposed *Implementation of the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone: Nonattainment Area Classifications Approach, Attainment Deadlines and Revocation of the 1997 Ozone Standards for Transportation Conformity*. In these comments, the TCEQ:

- supports not applying Texas' voluntary reclassification request for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) area for the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard to the area's classification for the 2008 eight-hour ozone standard;
- supports the EPA's preferred option of specifying the attainment date as a certain number of years from the end of the calendar year in which the area's nonattainment designation is effective;
- supports proposed revocation of the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard for transportation conformity and other purposes; and
- requests that the EPA provide a timeline for other 1997 eight-hour ozone standard revocation actions.

These comments are available on the [TCEQ National Comments Log - Comments Relating to Air Issues Web page](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/nc/Air_Issues.html#031412) ([http://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/nc/Air\\_Issues.html#031412](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/nc/Air_Issues.html#031412)).

Key draft dates for 2008 ozone standard SIP development:

- EPA designations and classifications finalized: no later than May 31, 2012;
- EPA implementation rule finalized: Fall 2012;
- SIP development (modeling, if required/stakeholder participation: 2013;
- SIP documentation: Jan – July 2014;
- SIP revision proposal: Dec 2014;
- Public comment: Jan 2015;
- SIP revision adoption: June 2015; and
- SIP revision due to EPA: Aug 2015.

**Please note that these dates are contingent on the EPA's timeline and therefore, subject to change. These draft dates are for planning purposes only.**

Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP)

- The Alternative Fueling Facilities Program grants are expected to open for applications in mid to late May. This program will be available for projects in the HGB, Dallas-Fort Worth,

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and El Paso areas and will pay the lesser of \$500,000 or 50% of eligible costs for fueling facilities to provide alternative fuels, including: electricity, compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, propane, hydrogen, and methanol.

- The Houston-Galveston Area Council's additional funding request for a third-party grant to continue to provide sub-grants for TERP projects has been tentatively approved for \$3 million. Contracting for the new third-party grant is pending adoption of revisions to the TERP guidelines in July 2012.
- Further information is available on the [TERP Web site](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp) (<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp>). Contact: Steve Dayton (512) 239-6824.